

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Examining Group 3724

1-16 (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 39, further comprising a flange that is removably fastened to said slide.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said ejector has a driver element extendable in a direction toward the counter-holder and engaging a seating of the ejector sleeve that is arranged to be displaceable along a counter-holder.

21. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said driver element comprises a bolt.

22. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein a cutting knife of the at least one cutting tool is fixedly or rotatably arranged on a mounting of said slide, said rotatable arrangement having a roller bearing.

23. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein a cutting knife of at least one cutting tool is arranged free wheeling.

24. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein a cutting knife of the at least one cutting tool is rotatable and is driven with a preselectable rotation speed.

25. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said at least one cutting tool is resiliently, compliantly mounted in said flange against a feed movement of said cutting knife.

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Examining Group 3724

26. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said at least one cutting tool has an adjustable abutment force.
27. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a recognition switch provided on said flange that senses a beginning of said tube during travel of said slide into a first cutting position.
28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said recognition switch is arranged on said slide at an acute angle to an end face of said tube.
29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said tube is mounted free wheeling on said counter-holder and is rotated by power-operation by a left and a right guide roller.
30. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said left and right guide roller, in the case of a tube internal diameter that is at least greater than the diameter of said counter-holder, engage on said tube in a manner such that said tube is supported on said counter-holder.
31. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said left and right guide roller, in the case of a tube internal diameter that substantially corresponds to a diameter of said counter-holder, rests on said tube in a position acting against a cutting force.
32. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein at least one of said left and right guide roller is power-operated.
33. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising supporting arms on which said left and right guide rollers are pivotably arranged

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Examining Group 3724

around a respective shaft, which left and right guide rollers are movable by a power element and a gearwheel pair coupled to said supporting arms.

34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said power element is driven with compressed air and an operating pressure for the positioning movement of the power element is settable.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising a stepping motor and a threaded spindle wherein said actuating drive comprises said stepping motor and drives said threaded spindle with an interposition of a coupling.

37. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said recognition switch comprises a proximity switch.

38. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said guide rollers are provided on said supporting arms which are arranged pivotably around a respective shaft and which are synchronously movable by a power element and a gearwheel pair coupled to said supporting arms.

39. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for cutting tubes comprising:  
a counter-holder arranged to receive a tube,  
said counter-holder having an ejector sleeve mounted thereon, wherein  
said ejector sleeve is movable along the counter-holder,  
~~at least one~~ a cutting tool that is movable to a cutting position during a  
cutting process,

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Examining Group 3724

a slide carrying the ~~at least one~~ cutting tool and carrying an ejector, having a driving element that can travel in a direction toward the counter-holder and engaging a seating of said ejector sleeve, and

a programmable control to control the movement of said slide, said cutting tool and said ejector sleeve,

wherein the movement of said slide is controlled between an initial position and an ejector position and for cutting the tube, the cut-off lengths of tubular sleeves are freely settable by moving said cutting tool on said slide and for ejecting the cut-off lengths of tubular sleeves, the slide is positioned in an ejector position for actuating said driving element by engaging to engage said seating of said ejector sleeve to strip off the sleeve or sleeves from the counter-holder when moving the slide from the ejector position to the initial position.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said slide is moved on said guide parallel to said counter-holder by an actuating drive in dependence on a programmable cut length of said tube.